



WIDER – Green Growing of SMEs: Innovation and Development in the Energy Sector in the Mediterranean Area

WP4 PILOT ACTIVITIES Innovation Voucher Factsheet





FACTSHEET

Innovation Voucher

KEY FEATURE

Encourage businesses to look outside their network for **new knowledge**

Available for **start-ups and micro, small and medium sized businesses from WIDER partners regions**

€ 350.000 fund to help stimulate innovation in emerging sectors

ABOUT

Innovation Vouchers are designed to encourage businesses to look outside their current network for new knowledge that can help them to grow and develop. Start-ups, micro, small and medium-sized businesses from across the WIDER project partners regions can apply for an Innovation Voucher.

Innovation Vouchers are allocated following a draw from all applications, and if successful, the business will be awarded an Innovation Voucher to work with an expert supplier of their choice.

The Innovation Voucher is a grant ranging from €5.000,00 up to €10.000,00. It will be available to businesses to work with a supplier for the first time and is used to pay for knowledge or technology transfer from that knowledge provider/supplier.

The voucher has three key criteria:

- The idea is to develop a challenging business through the support of a knowledge expert
- This should be the first time that you work with the knowledge supplier
- The idea should be applicable to one of the innovation fields taking into account end-user representatives perspective.



Benefits to business

An Innovation Voucher will stimulate a company to explore bringing new knowledge into the business, enhancing its ability to develop innovative products, processes and services or explore new markets, etc.

WIDER Innovation Voucher scheme will be open to a wider range of potential knowledge providers/suppliers, and can support all kinds of innovative R&D ideas, help you learn more about using design in your business, or look at the management of intellectual property.

The voucher will give you experience of how to work collaboratively with others as well as helping you to move forward with a particular idea.

Who is eligible?

This scheme will be open to micro, small and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs) only, as defined by the EC. The application process will help you to decide if you are eligible.

You must also be eligible to receive grant funding under EC de minimis state aid regulations. There is an upper limit of €200.000,00 for all de minimis state aid provided to any one business over a three-year period. We will ask you to confirm this when you apply.

Our priorities

WIDER project invests up to €350.000,00 in Innovation Vouchers to help stimulate and promote innovation in sectors we want to encourage MSMEs to start.

Local workshop will be realized in the pilot area to raise awareness on emerging sectors related to the WIDER theme: eco-smart housing for elderly. For more information please contact your local WIDER partner.

WIDER project is interested in any innovative approach to the idea you identify. Innovation Voucher will support all types of innovation – for example ideas for new or improved products, new or improved processes, new or improved services, investigating new markets or managing your intellectual property.

The key issue you need to be clear on is that **this should represent a real challenge for your business**, not just a slight improvement or change to what you currently do.



How do I find out more information or apply?

The application process will be published on the WIDER project site www.wider-project.eu and developed through local WIDER partners

COUNTRY	REGION	PARTNERS	
IT	Marche	SVIM SpA	www.svimspa.it
PT	Algarve	University of Algarve	www.ualg.pt
ES	Catalonia	ACC10	www.acc10.cat
FR	Rhone-Alpes	MEDIC@LPS	www.medicalps.eu
SI	-	Development Centre of Heart of Slovenia	www.razvoj.si
BiH	Sarajevo	SERDA	www.serda.ba
GR	Central Macedonia	Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce	www.ebeth.gr

The Innovation Voucher application process will be open from February 2014 to May 2014.

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS ARE GENERAL INFORMATION.

THE CALL FOR INNOVATION VOUCHER WILL DESCRIBE DEEPLY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND COSTS.

THE CALL FOR INNOVATION VOUCHER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE WIDER WEBSITE ON FEBRUARY.



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